

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 5 are currently amended. Accordingly, claims 1-5 will remain pending after entry of this amendment.

Support for the amendments herein can be found throughout the application as originally filed. No new matter is added.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0043089 A1 of Nguyen et al. (hereinafter "Nguyen").

Currently amended claims 1 and 5 each recite a master apparatus having a master reception device, a start determination device, a permission device "configured to make the master reception device reject to receive game information" until the start determination device determines to start the specific time, an elapse determination device, a rejection device "configured to make the master reception device reject the reception again when the elapse time determination device determines that the set time elapses," and a "device configured to execute game progress processes based on the game information received during the specific time."

Applicants respectfully assert that Nguyen fails to disclose a permission device and rejection device configured to reject game information before and after a set time. Rather, Nguyen merely discloses "starting a timer" or "monitoring a clock." Nguyen, ¶ [0088].

Moreover, Nguyen does not disclose a "device configured to execute game progress processes based on the game information received during the specific time" as recited by Applicants. Rather, as discussed in Paragraph [0121] of Nguyen, the player's score is reported back to the tournament server 46, thereby demonstrating that the "game progress processes" are executed on the individual gaming units 20.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Nguyen.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nguyen in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0020745 A1 of Yap et al. (hereinafter "Yap").

Claim 4 depends from claim 1. As discussed above in the context of claim 1, Nguyen fails to teach or suggest (i) a permission device and rejection device configured configured reject game information before and after a set time or (ii) a "device configured to execute game progress processes based on the game information received during the specific time."

Yap, which discloses the use of multiple smartcards, fails to cure either of these defects.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Nguyen in view of Yap.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' representatives would be helpful to resolve any further issues and/or expedite further prosecution of the application, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Fee Authorization

Applicants believe that no fees are due for the submission of this Amendment and Response. If additional fees are required, the Director is authorized to charge any fees associated with this submission to our Deposit Account, No. 04-1105, Reference 86264(308246). Any overpayment should be credited to said Deposit Account.

Dated: October 11, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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